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GEORGE F. HENSHALL.....MANAGER

TUESDAY.....OCTOBER 19, 1909

WHAT WILL A HOMESTEADER DO?

Of what use to try and settle our public lands when neither freight
nor passengers can be carried to and from them? There is a lot of
good land which is not public land, lying idle now because its owners
know that if they raised anything on it and tried to ship it,
the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company and other trans-
portation companies would soon take not only the crop but the
land too for freights. These large areas of privately owned
land represent idle capital. The owners can do nothing with the land,
fertile though it is,—and for absolutely no other reason than that
they cannot get their product to market. It is not necessary to say
that if land thus already held in private hands, at a loss year after
year on idle capital, cannot be turned into use, no small homesteader
taking a piece of government land would have a chance.

More important than the land law problem is the transportation
problem, inter-island and transpacific. As there is to be a special ses-
sion of the legislature, it cannot do better than to institute a careful
investigation with a view to rigid regulation of rates. The subject
is one with which the public is little familiar. We are loudly calling
for a subsidy to give us American steamers between here and the
Mainland. Possibly an investigation will show that an inter-island
subsidy is necessary in order to bring freight rates down to a reason-
able figure and insure adequate service. If not, it will show need of
rate regulation. One thing is absolutely certain, and that is that the
average homesteader on the public lands this Territory wants to offer
for settlement will never succeed under present transportation condi-
tions. The thousands of acres of good land now in private hands,
lying idle, even though owned by men of capital able to make the
necessary outlay to plant the valuable products their land will grow,
make argument of this proposition unnecessary.

Then there is the oceanic transportation problem. We want Ameri-
can farmers to come and settle our lands, and there are thousands of
them who would like to do so, thousands who have the money to come
and start business just as Americans have done on other public lands.
But we have no right to invite them, even if they might be foolish
enough to come, until there is reasonable passenger and freight trans-
portation between here and the coast.

The transportation difficulties are therefore a more pressing prob-
lem than the land laws. In the land laws we now have there are
some good provisions. Under them successful homesteading might
have been accomplished long ago in many cases, had freight rates
been reasonable.

AMENDING LAND LAWS.

Criticism of the proposed Republican amendments to the Organic
Act so far are confined to the sections dealing with the land law, and
they mostly take the line that the amendments do not go far enough.
In other words, it appears to be admitted that the proposed amend-
ments are good, but there are some people who want more amend-
ments. However, the amendments cover a good deal. A very impor-
tant change is offered, in the plan to do away with the auction system
in favor of the system of awarding tracts of public land by lot. Un-
der this proposed system the man without a cent has equal chance
with the millionaire, in getting choice pieces of public lands. The other
amendments, designed to prevent aliens from getting public lands and to
absolutely shut out all efforts at taking up such lands on speculation,
will not be opposed. It may be safely forecasted that there will be
Democratic opposition to the proposed law, based mainly on the land
issue and, as applying to that issue, on the idea of forcing a general
distribution of lands, which formed a feature of the last campaign.

Schwerin appears to be good at repudiating interviews. After
getting back to San Francisco he repudiated an interview cabled from
here, in which he referred to a possible withdrawal of the steamer
Korea, on account of her losing trip, though he had repeated the sub-
stance of the interview here in a public speech. Now he denies hav-
ing talked about the uselessness of wireless service on steamers. His
quoted remarks here were so astonishing that he certainly has reason
to wish he could disclaim them. Just as he was saying that the wire-
less was of no practical use on steamers, but merely a plaything for
passengers, the steamer Ohio went down and all her passengers were
saved in a couple of hours, from open boats, by steamers summoned
by wireless to the rescue.

STOPPING HONOLULU'S GROWTH.

The Star has printed before letters showing the impossibility of
getting passenger bookings for Honolulu from the Coast. Today we
print a letter, from a very large San Francisco business house to its
focal agency, showing impossibility to ship freight. Such records
should surely arouse local action. The first principle of city growth
the world over is to get into the best possible communication with the
rest of the country. When a community begins to grow, or wants to
begin to grow, its first great consideration is getting more railroads,
more trains. And that is all that remains to insure Honolulu's quick
growth. What chance has a town which people can't get to even when
they stand ready to pay their fare? Or a town to which people can-
not even ship freight?

KAUAI DISCUSSING SALOONS.

Discussing a sermon on the liquor question which is republished
in The Star today, the Garden Island has the following editorial, pre-
sented a few rather practical questions:

"We print in another column the report of a recently delivered ser-
mon which gives a broad and fair view of the dangers in the liquor
situation which now confronts us in these islands. It is a situation
which must be dealt with in a public-spirited manner if we are to work
for the prosperity and best interests of the Territory.

"The question of prohibition of the traffic is one which has caused
many a fierce dispute between those who are otherwise firm friends
but who look at the situation through differently colored glasses. But

the citizens of our Country are fast coming to think more in unison
on the subject than they did formerly.

"After the whole matter has been thoroughly discussed and thrash-
ed out, there remain several pertinent queries which we may ask each
other. One is—Does the drinking of intoxicating liquor, in any form,
except as a medicine under the direction of competent physicians, do
anything to sustain or improve us? Another—Does this Territory, or
do the people of the Territory, derive any real benefit from the con-
sumption of intoxicating beverages,—other than the fees paid for the
license? Third—Does the satisfaction which intoxicating liquor gives
to the appetite, without its being of any lasting or material benefit to
the growth of a person or municipality, compensate for the wrong
and violence, and weakening of the power of society, which can be
directly traced to its influence. These queries, in turn, give rise to
the following one. Would mankind be less happy, or less capable of
accomplishing the duties of citizenship, if intoxicating liquors were
placed entirely under the ban of the law, except as a medicine, and
their use as beverages should cease? The present prospect is that
this is the situation in which we will find ourselves soon if the Federal
government carries out its reported plans with respect to this Terri-
tory."

The Star has passed some severe criticism upon the conduct of a
considerable portion of the Japanese press of the islands, in the mat-
ter of publication of obscene matter. The criticism has seemed to be
called for. The publication of the sort of matter which some,—espe-
cially the country papers,—stand accused of, is revolting to decent
sensibilities and as the readers of these papers include a class expect-
ed by many to form a large element in our future citizenship, such
publications were a grave crime against the commonwealth. Un-
doubtedly to some extent, they were excusable,—or at least not so
unpardonable as in an American editor,—on account of the differen-
ces of Japanese customs in printed languages and the customs of the
English-using world. Be this as it may, it is pleasing to be able to
observe and commend a promised reform. Proceedings having been
begun which called to their attention the offense being committed,
leading Japanese editors have joined in a letter in which they do not
resent prosecution, but with great frankness and commendable spirit
of fairness and progress, agree to use their efforts to see that reform
is complete.

THE SALOON QUESTION

Sermon by Rev. J. M. Lydgate Sun-
day, October 10, at Lihue church.

The saloon patrons claim for them-
selves the right to eat and drink what
they like. They say to the temperance
people, "we do not interfere with your
rights. If you prefer water or milk
or soda water we do not demur or res-
train you,—now we claim for our-
selves the same freedom that we grant
you." This sounds plausible. But if
water or milk, or soda water went to
men's heads and made them crazy; if
they stimulated to a large degree the
increase of crime; if they imposed a
heavy burden of taxation on the com-
munity, then assuredly the community
would be justified in prohibiting the
use of them.

This principle of the right of the
state to protect itself in this way, is
well established. The pure food laws
are an outcome of this fundamental
principle. The pure food inspector
finds exposed for sale a stock of meat
which is tainted or diseased. It is
in vain that the owner claims that it
is a private matter between him and
his purchaser; that by means of chemi-
cals he can "fix it up" so that it will
pass muster; that he is selling it at a
reduction because it isn't good; that
it is an infringement of personal
liberty to restrain him from selling and
his purchaser from buying, etc. The
inspector is deaf to all such talk and
promptly confiscates and destroys the
whole stock. It is the right of the
community to protect itself against
the use of unwholesome and danger-
ous food stuffs and it is too late in the
day to gainsay this right of the com-
munity.

Granting then this right we come to
the question, Does prohibition prob-
hibit? Our liquor loving friends tell
us that it does not, that it simply
changes the sale from an open, legiti-
mate, and honorable one to a covert,
illicit, and dishonorable one; that the
"blind pig" takes the place of the
saloon and the sale goes on.

The "Independent" some months ago

devoted several pages to a symposium
on the question "Does Prohibition pro-
hibit," giving the experience of Pro-
hibition communities. There was a
striking variance in the testimony.
About half the replies were enthusias-
tic in favor of prohibition. It was a
great success. The other half were
just as enthusiastic in condemnation,
it was a great failure. When the evi-
dence is so conflicting it is hard to
get at the facts. But granting the un-
certain quality of its complete success,
the following consideration suggest
themselves to the open mind.

1. Prohibition must be enforced to
be of any value. Simply to place a
good law on the statute books doesn't
do the community any good. In too
many cases the public enthusiasm is
exhausted in the mere enacting of pro-
hibitive legislation and the ordinance
remains little more than a stranded
derelict.

Such prohibition does not prohibit.
2. Granting that the old toper, or
the man addicted to the use of intoxi-
cants, must have his drinks, and will
have them. The elimination of the
saloon, the illegitimizing of the li-
quor business, and the removal of con-
stant temptation from the presence of
the rising generation must surely re-
sult in a mitigation of the evils of in-
temperance. The present hard drink-
ers will in time pass off the stage and
their ranks we may hope will not be
fully recruited from the young.

3. If, as our drinking friends main-
tain, prohibition does not prohibit;
that the sale and use go on just the
same or even that the sale and use are
increased under prohibition, why
then, in the name of common sense is
the saloon interest raising Heaven and
earth to prevent the spread of prohibi-
tion?

What they ought to do, is to com-
bine with the Temperance people and
work for the speedy and wide spread
inauguration of a policy that would
so materially redound to their own
interest.—Garden Island.

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